mints that plague Hibiscus are in order. You can't do much about the butterflys personally but if they are profuse you can spray the plant thoroughly, to prevent egg hatch, with Isotox that will not burn the leaves but will take care of much of the mealy bugs, soft scale, mites and aphis at the same time. A word to the wise, you spray today and a heavy rain tomorrow and your work is practically undone. When the weather clears do it over again as those little stinkers love hot moist weather. Grasshoppers are another story that heaps of hand wacking and head twisting will do more good than anything I know.

Watch those new plants you set out this spring. Some go like a house afire while some just sit. Those laggards are your problem, solve it now or they will not have strength to carry through the cold winter months. Maybe it needs a richer bed of peat, rotted leaves and woods soil. Did you dig a $10.00 hole for your $2.00 plant or just slap it in a gallon size hole with no soil preparation. If replanting in a better mix doesn't show a reward in a reasonable time there is only one alternate. It's just too blamed hot for that variety so move it where the morning's sun only will be on the plant. Of course your pH should be between 5½ to 6½ to have the most desirable soil. Make sure it is good fertilizer, at least 25% organic with the secondary elements for a well rounded meal.

About a couple of weeks before the shows prepare for those super blooms. Twice a week give them a weak nutritional spray both top and bottom of the foliage as well as the buds. They will just love it and those extra size blooms will give your competitors a fit.

-O-

BEER

I think that I shall never hear
A poem lovelier than beer.
The brew that Joe's Bar has on tap,
With golden base and showy cap.
The foamy stuff I drink all day
Until my mem'ry melts away.
Poems are made by fools I fear,
But only Schlitz can make a beer.

* *

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HELPFUL HIBISCUS HINTS

In going thru the files the other night I ran across the following sheet made up by King's Ideal Supply Inc., of Vero Beach, Florida.

Specimen Hibiscus blooms come from well-cared for plants. Look your plant over and check for the following insects:

APHIDS - Small, softbodied slow-moving insects found on the underside of new tender leaves and young flower buds. They will curl the leaves by sucking the juice which will ruin the growing tip and mar the flower bud. Aphids secrete honeydew, a sticky substance, which in turn is attacked by a black fungus known as sooty mold.

SNOW SCALE - A tiny narrow white scale hard to see until found in vast numbers. It turns the stem white like snow.